



Michael O. Leavitt
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Executive Director

Timothy H. Provan
Division Director

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Southeastern Region
455 West Railroad Avenue
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CT/019/032 #2

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OCT 12 1993

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

October 6, 1993

Mr. Larry Johnson
Genwal Coal Company
P.O. Box 1201
195 North 100 West
Huntington, Utah 84528

Dear Larry:

This letter is in regard to the construction of fish barrier in the Left Fork of Huntington Creek as a mitigation project to be included in Genwal's Mining and Reclamation Plan. A number of problems have become evident as our office worked to develop a design for this project. We present the following comments and recommendation for your information.

Kevin Christopherson, Regional Fisheries Manager, surveyed the Left Fork of Huntington Creek for sites suitable for the construction of a fish barrier. The site we had originally proposed was not suitable. Some potential sites were found but were located some distance upstream which defeats the purpose of the barrier and would result in considerable resource damage during construction. A barrier similar to what we had proposed was found within the drainage, but this structure has been ineffective in blocking the passage of fish. In order to construct a barrier sufficient to block fish passage, extensive stream modification would be required and would result in some ponding within the stream. In addition to being considerably more costly, this would cause a build-up of sediments which is also undesirable. Another potential problem would be the isolation and barrier to spawning that this project could represent to cutthroat trout located downstream in Huntington Creek.

Given this information, we feel that it is in the best interest of the resource to withdraw the proposal to construct this fish barrier as a mitigation project. We realize this presents some problems with regard to Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM)



Mr. Larry Johnson

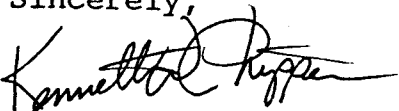
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October 6, 1993

requirements for your Mine Plan. For this reason, we developed the alternative wildlife enhancement measures presented in our letter of September 27, 1993. These enhancement measures should satisfy DOGM's requirements with regard to wildlife habitat enhancement.

We appreciate your efforts with regard to the fish barrier project and regret any inconvenience this may cause. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Kenneth W. Phippen
Regional Habitat Manager

SR/lcl

Copy: Kevin Christopherson, DWR
Paul Baker, DOGM



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OCT 1 1993

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

September 27, 1993

Mr. Larry Johnson
Genwal Coal Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 1201
195 North 100 West
Huntington, Utah 84528

Dear Larry:

This letter is in regard to the potential wildlife enhancement measures which were discussed at the September 21, 1993 site review of Genwal's facilities attended by DWR and DOGM. We appreciate the opportunity of working with you to develop reclamation practices which will be of benefit to local wildlife. We recommend that the following measures be included in the reclamation section of the MRP as fish and wildlife habitat enhancement.

Wildlife habitat values found at the mine site include big game winter and summer range, fisheries and riparian habitat and non-game mammal and bird habitat. The reclamation procedures currently included in the MRP should enhance big game, fisheries and riparian values. The following measures will enhance the non-game habitat value of the reclaimed site.

As the mine site is regraded during reclamation procedures, we recommend that several rock piles be constructed using the large rocks and boulders that occur at the site. Rock piles provide several benefits to wildlife including perch sites, protection from the elements and predators, nest sites and vegetative enhancement due to improved snow catchment. Boulders used in constructing rock piles should be large enough so that, when piled, there is a maze of spaces within the pile. Rock piles of an irregular configuration are of greater value to wildlife due to an increased edge. We recommend the construction of several small rock piles (10 - 15 ft. on a side and 3 - 5 ft. high), rather than a single large pile.

Nest boxes can benefit a variety of birds, including songbirds, various perching birds, woodpeckers, owls and kestrels. The lack of large-diameter trees at the mine site likely limits the number of nest sites available to these cavity-nesting species. We recommend that the power poles located on the mine site be



Mr. Larry Johnson

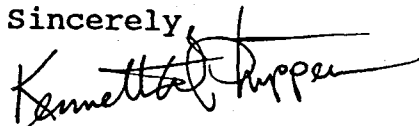
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September 27, 1993

salvaged, replaced following reclamation, and nest boxes attached to provide nest sites for cavity-nesting species. Enclosed is a nest box design which will be suitable for most owl and woodpecker species, as well as kestrels. We recommend that the boxes be placed 10 - 12 feet above the ground. The poles and nest boxes should be placed around the perimeter of the reclaimed area within 15 feet of undisturbed habitat.

We appreciate your willingness to incorporate measures into the reclamation plan which will enhance the area for wildlife. If you have any questions regarding our recommendations or if we can be of additional assistance, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Kenneth W. Phippen
Regional Habitat Manager

SR/lcl

Enclosure

Copy: Ralph Miles, DWR
Paul Baker, DOGM
Charles Jankiewicz, USFS